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Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Big telephone companies are seeking deregulation. This would mean they could put small independent providers of internet and phone service of business.

The 1996 Telecommunications Act allows competitive carriers to rent bare copper lines from incumbent carriers, and to use spare fiber between cities. These critical unbundled network elements (UNEs) enable independent internet providers to deploy equipment and provide UNE copper services and enable fiber deployment by allowing providers to aggregate demand and serve members while they deploy fiber. These providers are bringing faster service at lower prices than the big companies charge.

I get my internet service bundled with phone service from a local provider. They are charged less than the phone company or cable company charge. I am 80 years old and the internet keeps me connected with my church and with friends all over the U.S.

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